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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EB-08
USIE-00 CCO-00 PA-01 IO-13 /058 W
----------030238 292327Z /14
O 292125Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7490
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 3952

RIO FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT - DRAFT JOINT COMMUNIQUE

REF: STATE 79086

1. AT A MEETING IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AT 17:30 MARCH 29 WITH AMBASSADORS SANU, JOLAOSO AND AFOLABI, AMBASSADOR EASUM PRESENTED
A DRAFT TEXT OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH ATTEMPTED TO COMBINE AND RECONCILE THE DRAFT CONTAINED IN REFTEL WITH THE DRAFT WHICH THE FMG HAD PRESENTED US AT 12:00 MARCH 29. THE NIGERIANS HAD INDICATED AT 12:00 THAT THEY FOUND PARAGRAPH TEN OF REFTEL UNACCEPTABLE AND IT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMBINED DRAFT. AT THE AFTERNOON MEETING COMPLETE AGREEMENT WAS ACHIEVED, ALBEIT AD REFERENDUM, ON THE TEXT SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED IN PARENTHETICAL NOTES. IT WAS AGREED THAT ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 10:00, FRIDAY, MARCH 31 TO REVIEW THE REACTIONS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO THIS DRAFT AND HOPEFULLY REACH FINAL AGREEMENT. THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ARE THEREFORE URGENTLY NEEDED BY THE OPENING OF BUSINESS HERE MARCH 31.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: AT THE INVITATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY LT. GENERAL
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OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, HEAD OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT, COM-MANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, JIMMY CARTER, AND MRS. CARTER PAID A STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA FROM 31ST MARCH TO 3RD APRIL 1978. THIS VISIT RECIPROCATED THE VISIT TO THE USA BY THE HEAD OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT FROM 11TH TO 13TH OCTOBER 1977. IT WAS THE FIRST STATE VISIT BY AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT

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TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, PROVIDING PRESIDENT CARTER AN OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS FIRST-HAND THE ASPIRATIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROBLEMS OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICA.

3. IN THE COURSE OF THE VISIT, THE TWO HEADS OF STATE MET IN PLENARY SESSIONS DURING WHICH THEY DISCUSSED BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

4. PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS HOST, LT. GENERAL OBASANJO, EXAMINED EXTENSIVELY THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE AFRICAN REGION AND DEVOTED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. THEY WERE FULLY AGREED ON THE NEED FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN AFRICA AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION WILL PREVAIL IN THOSE AREAS OF NORTH-WEST AFRICA AND IN THE HORN OF AFRICA THAT ARE STILL VICTIMS OF FRATRICIDAL CONFLICTS. PRESIDENT CARTER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH NIGERIA'S EFFORTS IN ITS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION TO RESTORE PEACE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. IT WAS AGREED THAT NIGERIA SHOULD PERSEVERE IN ITS EFFORTS TO GET THE PARTIES IN THE DISPUTE TO NEGOTIATE A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AND THEREFORE DURABLE SOLUTION. WITH THE FIGHTING NOW ENDED, THEY CALLED ON ALL OUTSIDE STATES TO AVOID ANY FORM OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE AREA. (THE NIGERIANS HAVE REQUESTED THE DELETION OF THE PRECEDING SENTENCE BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THE ETHIOPIANS WILL REGARD IT AS INTERFERENCE WITH THEIR RIGHT TO CALL FOR OUTSIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE UNDER SOME CIRCUMSTANCES. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NIGERIANS ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ON THIS POINT BECAUSE OF THEIR POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION ON THE CONFLICT OF THE HORN). THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT COULD ALSO BE ACHIEVED FOR THE PROBLEM OF ERITREA. (THE NIGERIANS ARE INSISTING ON DELETING THIS BECAUSE THE ETHIOPIANS WILL CONSIDER IT INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS).

6. ON ZIMBABWE THE TWO HEADS OF STATE DECLARED THAT THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ACCORD IS ILLEGAL AND UNACCEPTABLE TO THE INTER-NATIONAL COMMUNITY. (THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF THE PRECEDING SENTENCE AND THIS FORMULATION WAS ONLY ARRIVED AT WITH SOME DIFFICULTY). THEY EXPRESSED THEIR FULL SUPPORT FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL AND REITERATED THEIR CONVICTION THAT ONLY A SETTLE-MENT WHICH IS BASED ON THESE PROPOSALS AND WHICH TAKES FULL ACCOUNT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT CAN BRING ABOUT RACIAL HARMONY, PROSPERITY AND JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN ZIMBABWE.

7. THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA WAS ALSO CAREFULLY EXAMINED. LT. GENERAL OBASANJO EMPHASIZED HIS GOVERNMENT'S FULL SUPPORT FOR SWAPO AS THE AUTHENTIC LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE IN THEIR JUST STRUGGLE FOR THE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA, WITH ITS UNITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY FULLY GUARANTEED. THE TWO LEADERS AGREED

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THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF AFRICA THAT NAMIBIA ACHIEVE ITS INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385. THEY TOOK NOTE OF CURRENT EFFORTS OF THE 5-POWER WESTERN CONTACT GROUP IN THIS REGARD AND LOOKED FORWARD TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. (THE NIGERIANS SAID THAT THEY CANNOT AT THIS STAGE PUBLICLY ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL OF THE CONTACT GROUP).

8. THE TWO HEADS OF STATE RENEWED THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE EVIL AND OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. THEY PLEDGED THEIR JOINT EFFORTS TO WORK TOWARD THE LIMINATION OF THIS SYSTEM AND THE RESTORATION OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY FOR ALL RACES IN SOUTH AFRICA WITHIN A FREE SOCIETY WHERE ALL CITIZENS WILL EXERCISE THEIR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO INSTALL A GOVERNMENT OF THEIR
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CHOICE. THEY APPEALED TO ALL STATES TO DO THEIR PART TOWARD THE REALIZATION OF THIS OBJECTIVE. (THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH IS CONSIDERABLY MILDER THAN THAT ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY THE FMG BUT THEY INDICATED AT THE 17:00 MEETING THAT THEY CONSIDER IT ACCEPTABLE. WE JUDGE THAT THERE IS NO HOPE OF PERSUADING THEM TO PUBLICLY ENDORSE THE LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT REGARDING SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR FACILITIES).

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USIE-00 CCO-00 PA-01 IO-13 /058 W
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O 292125Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7491
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

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9. PRESIDENT CARTER AND LT. GENERAL OBASANJO EXPRESSED THE INTENTION

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OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, AS MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, TO WORK CLOSELY IN THE COUNCIL IN THE INTERESTS OF STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. THEY EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S PROMPT ACTION IN ESTABLISHING A UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON AND PLEDGED THEIR FULL COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MANDATE GRANTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR BELIEVE THAT DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 AND RESPECT FOR THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS.

10. THE TWO HEADS OF STATE UNDERSCORED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL SOCIETIES. THEY REGARDED THE NIGERIAN PROPOSAL AT THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS WHERE THEY NOW DO NOT EXIST AS A SIGNIFICANT REFORM IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS MERITING IMPLEMENTATION. (THE NIGERIANS CANNOT ACCEPT THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SENTENCE, ARGUING THAT A JOINT PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT AT PRESENT OF THE NIGERIAN PROPOSAL WOULD RUIN ITS CHANCES OF ACCEPTANCE BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHICH WOULD THEN VIEW NIGERIA AS ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S.) TO THIS END THEY CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING UN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY, IN PARTICULAR BY ELIMINATING THE APPLICATION OF A DOUBLE STANDARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS DISPUTES. (THE NIGERIANS INSISTED ON DELETION OF THE CLAUSE BEGINNING WITH QUOTE IN PARTICULAR END QUOTE BECAUSE THEY SEE IT AS UNCLEAR AND CAPABLE OF BEING READ IN WAYS EMBARRASSING TO THEM).

11. IN THEIR REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE TWO HEADS OF STATE STRESSED THE URGENT NEED FOR MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO SECURE A JUST AND EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. THE TWO LEADERS PLACED SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC DIALOGUE AND IN PARTICULAR ON THE WORK CREATED BY THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THEY AGREED ON THE VALUE OF THAT OF THE UN OVERVIEW COMMITTEE DIALOGUE IN ENHANCING AN UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN AND IN PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. THEY APPEALED TO ALL NATIONS TO STRIVE VIGOROUSLY FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN PARTICULAR WITH RESPECT TO ISSUES OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE COMMON FUND, THE INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAMME, AND THE DEBT PROBLEMS OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. (THIS PARAGRAPH IS MUCH MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN IT WAS IN THE FMG'S ORIGINAL VERSION. IF THE USG CANNOT ACCEPT THE WORDING IN THE PRECEDING SENTENCE BEGINNING WITH THE WORDS QUOTE SUCH AS END QUOTE, THE NIGERIANS WANT TO INSERT IN ITS STEAD THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: QUOTE IN THIS REGARD LT. GENERAL OBASANJO

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INVITED ATTENTION TO THE SLOW PACE OF PROGRESS CONCERNING THE ESTAB-
LISHMENT OF A COMMON FUND AND ALLEVIATION OF THE DEBT PROBLEMS OF
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. END QUOTE). THEY ALSO AGREED TO CO-
OPERATE IN ORDER TO INTENSIFY ACTION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM TOWARDS FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF GLOBAL INFLATION.

12. THE TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION
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ON DISARMAMENT WHICH OPENS IN MAY OF 1978. AS LEADERS OF COUNTRIES
WHICH HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN UN DISARMAMENT MATTERS, BOTH
HEADS OF STATE AGREED THAT THE SESSION SHOULD PROVIDE A STIMULUS
TO FURTHER CONCRETE DISARMAMENT EFFORTS.

13. THE TWO HEADS OF STATE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE PROGRESS
THAT HAD BEEN MADE IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL COOPERATION
IN ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL FIELDS AND AGREED
TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THESE RELATIONS. EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO
EXPAND AND DIVERSIFY TRADE, INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES
IN AREAS OF KEY IMPORTANCE TO NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE TWO
LEADERS NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF A NIGERIAN INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT
CONDUCIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. (THE NIGERIANS WERE CON-
CERNED ABOUT THIS SENTENCE AND MAY INSIST THAT IT BE CHANGED TO
READ QUOTE PRESIDENT CARTER POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A NIGERIAN
INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.
END QUOTE).

14. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND MRS. CARTER
EXPRESSED THEIR PROFOUND APPRECIATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT
GENERAL OBASANJO AND TO ALL THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE FOR
THE GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY AFFORDED TO THEIR PARTY DURING THEIR VISIT
TO NIGERIA.

15. THE PRESIDENT WAS IMPRESSED BY THE VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE
PACE OF NIGERIAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND THE VIGOROUS AND DETERMINED
EFFORTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO
PROVIDE FOR THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF
NIGERIA.

16. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS
VISIT TO NIGERIA BY: (LIST)

17. HIS EXCELLENCY, THE HEAD OF STATE AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF
THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA WAS ATTENDED
BY: (LIST).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 79086
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3172218
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT - DRAFT JOINT COMMUNIQUE
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f19febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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